

Protect Your Baby From Pertussis (Whooping Cough)!

Vaccinated Mothers Pass on Protection to Unborn Infants

- Some protection you get from vaccines is passed on to your baby during pregnancy
- By getting vaccinated during pregnancy, this will help protect your baby from some diseases during the first few months of life until he or she can get vaccinated
- Vaccination of pregnant mothers may prevent infant whooping cough disease, hospitalizations, and even death



Whooping Cough is Serious for Infants

- Pertussis is most severe for babies; more than half of infants younger than 1 year of age who get the disease must be hospitalized
- In rare cases, pertussis can be deadly, especially in infants

Infants are too Young to be Vaccinated

- Infants cannot start the whooping cough series until they are 2 months old
- For the best protection, children should receive 3 doses of DTaP vaccine by 6 months; a 4th dose can be given around their 1st birthday (12-18 months)
- The best way to protect infants from whooping cough is to vaccinate those around them, including parents, siblings, grandparents, day care and child care workers, and health care personnel

Vaccines During Pregnancy are Safe and Effective

- Vaccines trigger your body to naturally build immunity to viruses
- Women should ideally receive whooping cough vaccine (Tdap) before becoming pregnant or at pre-conception visits
- If not previously vaccinated, pregnant women should be given Tdap during the third trimester or late second trimester (after 20 weeks)



Ask Your Health Care Provider

- Talk to your doctor about Tdap and other vaccines you need to stay healthy during pregnancy, like the flu shot
- Get yourself and your family members vaccinated to protect your baby from whooping cough

Where to go for More Information

- www.michigan.gov/immunize - click on "Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Michigan"
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines